Phil 011: Introduction to Philosophy
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UCSC 2007 Summer Session I and II Proposal
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I. Course Description

This course is an introduction to western philosophy. As such it will have two objectives. The first objective is an introduction to the methods and reasoning of the western philosophical tradition. The second objective is a survey of several of the core texts of western philosophy. This course has as its theme the tension between modernity and postmodernism. The best way, of course, to study philosophy is to do philosophy. Thus an emphasis will be placed on critical engagement with the assigned readings and thinkers, and not on mere memorization. By the end of the quarter participants should be well prepared for further study in philosophy and for the application of good-reasoning to areas relevant to individual students.

II. Course Requirements

Because this is a summer session course and the pace is hence somewhat accelerated, students are required to attend *all* course sessions. Each session will be divided into two sub-sessions. For example, session 2a and session 2b will be the first two hours and the second two hours of the second session respectively. Regular participation in course discussions is required and will be reflected in course evaluations. Grades will be comprised as follows:

Midterm paper, approx. 5 pages (40%)
Final paper, approx. 6 pages (40%)
Student Presentations (10%)
Participation and Attendance (10%)

All papers should be typed, double-spaced, with standard margins, and use Times New Roman font. Midterm and final paper topics will be assigned in-class and due one week from the date assigned. Late papers and/or e-mail submissions will not be accepted. Papers should also be proofread for spelling/grammar mistakes, as these will detract from your grade and the effectiveness of your papers.

(Note: Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. Any student determined to have practiced academic dishonesty will

receive an automatic failing grade and will be referred to the dean.)

III. Required Materials

All materials are available at the Bay Tree Bookstore on campus:

-Course Reader
-Descartes, Rene, Meditations on First Philosophy, Hackett Publishing Company, Indianapolis: 1993
-Hume, David, An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding, Hackett Publishing Company, Indianapolis: 1993
-Kant, Immanuel, Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics, Hackett Publishing Company, Indianapolis, 1977

IV. Schedule of Sessions and Readings ('*' = course reader)

Session 1: Introductory Lecture

Session 2: Ancient Greek Roots

a. Plato, Republic*
b. Aristotle, Posterior Analytics*

Session 3: Origins of Modern Philosophy, Continental Rationalism

a. Descartes, Rene, Meditations on First Philosophy, Meditations I, II, VI
b. Descartes, Rene, Meditations on First Philosophy, Meditations III, IV, V

Session 4: Arguments for God; British Empiricism

a. Solomon, Robert, The Big Questions, Chapter on Faith and Reason*
a. Clayton, Philip, The Problem of God in Modern Thought*
b. Hume, David, An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding, I-VII

Session 5: Kant's Synthesis

a. Kant, Immanuel, Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics, Preamble & Part I

b. Kant, Immanuel, Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics, Parts II & III

Session 6: Paths from Kant, Origins of Postmodernism, Midterm Paper Due

a. Nietzsche, Friedrich, "On Truth and Lies in a Nonmoral Sense"*

b. Nietzsche, Friedrich, The Gay Science*

Session 7: Foucault: Nietzsche's Heir

a. Foucault, Michel, The Archaeology of Knowledge (two selections)*

b. Foucault, Michel, Power/Knowledge*

Session 8: Origins of Postmodernism II

a. Wittgenstein, Ludwig, Philosophical Investigations*

b. Wittgenstein, Ludwig, On Certainty*

Session 9: Postmodern Critique

a. Lyotard, Jean-Francois, The Postmodern Condition, #6-9*

b. Lyotard, Jean-Francois, The Postmodern Condition, #10-12*

Session 10: Theories of Truth

a. Solomon, Robert, The Big Questions, Chapter on The Nature of Truth*

b. Closing Remarks

Session 11: Student Presentations, Final Paper Due